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"The audience were gripped by Miller Mania!"
The Stage

THE JOHN MILLER ORCHESTRA

The Glenn Miller Connection

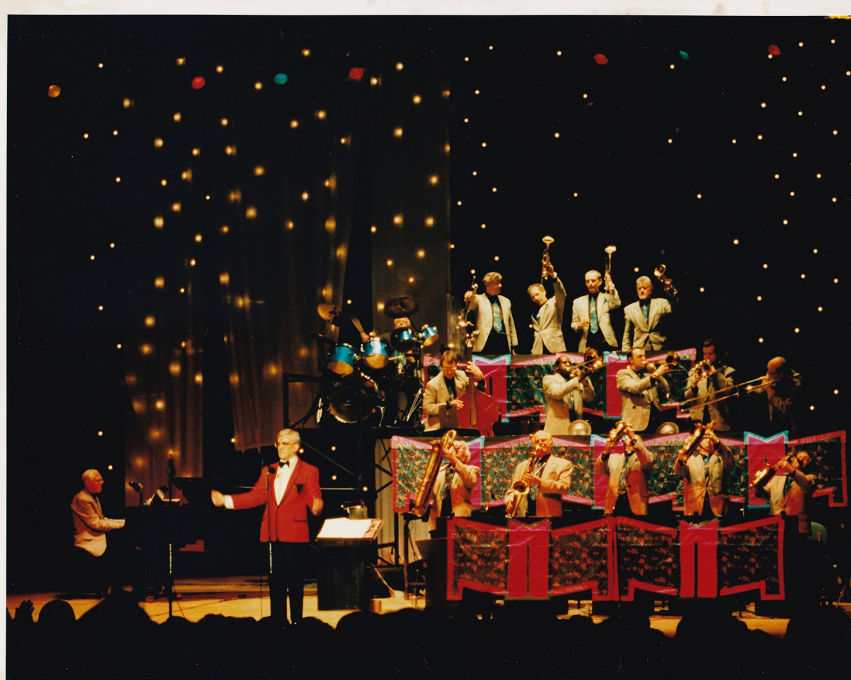
The John Miller Orchestra - formerly The Herb Miller Orchestra - is the only big band performing the music of Glenn Miller that had direct family links to the great man himself, in the form of Herb Miller, his brother, and John Miller, his nephew. In the Miller family, there were three brothers and a sister. In order of appearance they were: Dean, Glenn, Herb and Irene. Herb was John's father which made Glenn, John's uncle.

Herb Miller first established his orchestra in the USA as early as 1958, and when Herb moved to the UK with his son John in 1981, the British Herb Miller Orchestra was born.

Herb Miller passed away in 1987, and John Miller in 2021.

It was John's wish - and with the blessing of his children - that the orchestra should carry on in his name. John passed the 'baton' to trombonist and friend, David Pearce, who was John's protégé for over 30 years, leaving David *"the exclusive rights to the names Herb Miller and John Miller Orchestra"*.

While the orchestra naturally plays a lot of Miller, we also delve into the library of all the other big band greats. There's also a welcome extension with special numbers exclusive to the orchestra, pieces like **"Herbie's Jive"** and **"Remember Glenn Miller"** as well as original compositions and arrangements by Herb himself.



ABOUT

THE JOHN MILLER ORCHESTRA

The John Miller Orchestra - formerly The Herb Miller Orchestra - is the only big band performing the music of Glenn Miller that had direct family links to the great man himself, in the form of Herb Miller, his brother, and John Miller, his nephew.

Many years after the disappearance of Glenn, Herb was given the opportunity and decided he wanted to recreate the Miller Magic and form an orchestra to play the music of his brother. In 1958 the Herb Miller Orchestra was first established. Herb had worked in America for many years with his son John, and John started playing bass with his father's band at the tender age of 15 and shortly thereafter, in addition, became the band's singer.

In 1981 Herb and John decided to form the Herb Miller Orchestra in Great Britain. John became his business partner and was the featured singer with the band. John and Herb

built an organisation which now contains some of the best musicians in the country. There are still two of the original members that have been with the band for over 30 years and the rest range in service time from 30 years down to 12 years with the odd "newcomer" with only 4 or 5 years on the roster.

When Herb Miller died in September 1987 - just days before a 28 date tour of Norway, Denmark and Sweden - John Miller took over the direction of the Herb Miller Orchestra.

With the help of his loyal and supportive crew the band sailed through the Scandinavian tour so successfully that the band was asked to come back and tour twice more. 15 years after Herb's passing, it was decided in 2002 that the band should be renamed: The John Miller Orchestra was born.

The JMO is joined on stage by vocalist Fiona Paige who is at the centre of the

great Modernaires numbers like:

"Chattanooga Choo Choo" and: **"I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo"**. As Fiona is an ex dancer, she brings years of professionalism, energy and an extra dimension and definition to the term Big Band Singer. She is a show in herself. To see her is to love her.

Notable guest artists who have appeared with the orchestra include **Gloria Brent** - who sang with Glenn Miller in 1944 - and original Glenn Miller band member and featured soloist, clarinettist '**Peanuts' Hucko** who toured with the orchestra in 1995. **The Kaye Sisters** toured with the orchestra in 1996 and world-renown Lindy Hopper's **Simon Slemon** and **Rusty Frank**, in 1997, as part of the **"In the Mood"** tour.

While the orchestra naturally plays a lot of Miller, we also delve into the library of all the other big band greats. There's also a welcome extension with special numbers exclusive to the orchestra, pieces like **"Herbie's Jive"** and **"Remember Glenn Miller"** as well as original compositions

and arrangements by Herb himself.

The musicians have been chosen not just for their musical expertise but also for their amiable personalities. They have a good time and spread joy where ever they go.

The orchestra has been satisfying and entertaining audiences wherever it performs. Not only is it a big band performing some of the greatest big band music and songs that have been written, but is also a big band that offers much more than just a concert, but a show of timeless music.

The orchestra has extensively toured in the UK, Spain, France, Belgium, The Canary Islands and the Scandinavian Countries, Dubai, Shanghai - to name but a few - recreating the classical Glenn Miller sound for the pleasure of thousands of listeners.

When John Miller passed away in June 2021, the responsibility of the orchestra was placed in the hands of David Pearce. David was a friend and protégé of John Miller for over 30 years and is a professional trombonist and conductor.



ABOUT

HERB MILLER

Herb Miller developed his musical talent very much under the guidance of his elder brother Glenn, and went on to form various bands in America. Music was always the main driving force, focal point, and ultimate aim of Herb Miller.

Many years after the disappearance of Glenn, Herb was given the opportunity and decided he wanted to recreate the Miller Magic and form an orchestra to play the music of his brother. Herb had worked in America for many years with his son John. John started playing bass with his father's band at the tender age of 15 and shortly thereafter, in addition, became the band's singer. Nepotism was alive and well in the Miller family. Herb's oldest daughter came into the band on piano, his youngest son, in time, joined the trumpet section and the baby of the family, Janet, started singing at the age of twelve.

In 1971, Herb "ran away" to the circus, where he could play all day long, seven days a week. In the winter of 1979 - off-season

for the circus - Herb did some guest spots with a big band in Great Britain. Someone saw one of Herb's British performances and thought it would be a good idea for Herb to form his own band there.

When Herb returned to the USA, he found a message waiting for him from the mysterious English backer. Three days later, Herb was back in England knocking on the fellow's door "before he could change his mind."

After a final 1980 season with the circus, Herb - accompanied by his son, John Miller - relocated to the British Isles. The new Herb Miller Orchestra played its first engagement in 1981 at The Dome in Brighton, and has played every major and most of the minor theatres in the British Isles as well as in Spain, Malta, France, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Dubai and China.

Herb Miller passed on the 30th September, 1987, from a stroke in King's College Hospital, London, England, just days before a 28-day tour of Norway, Denmark and Sweden.



“Glenn would be pleased that the world still admires him, that the next Miller in line’s going strong.”

ABOUT

JOHN MILLER

John Miller was born in 1941, in the state of Michigan, USA. His arrival forced his father, the late Herb Miller, to drop out of college and go back on the road to support his family. Herb was then drafted into the army and sent to Colorado. John, then two years old, travelled with his mother and older sister to California and Monterey Bay. The family remained in Monterey Bay for the duration of John’s childhood and teenage years.

John said: ***“I wanted to be everything at one time or another except a policeman and a girl.”*** Although musically inclined (as a young boy he played the trumpet, tuba and string bass and sat first chair tuba in the San Francisco State College Symphony Orchestra) his experiences of careers were varied to say the least! To name a few, John has worked as a school teacher, gas station attendant, prototype designer, janitor, musician, landscaper...the list goes on...and in John’s words: ***“maybe it would be easier to list what I haven’t been!”***

Ever ready to leave the routine of life

behind, John would love to sail off into the great blue yonder. Yet, if there was any commitment to life - through his own choice - it was to Glenn Miller’s music and his father’s, Herb Miller, creation of a big band; The Herb Miller and John Miller Orchestra.

In the winter of 1980/81 Herb was planning to come to the UK to form an all-British band and asked John to join as lead vocalist. The rest, they say, is history. John was both the lead vocalist and manager of the band, taking over the mantle from Herb on his death in 1987. John said: ***“I’ve been roadcrew and band manager to the Herb & John Miller Orchestra and I am now doing what I’m happiest with.”***

Asked what Glenn might have thought of his music today, John used to reply: ***“Glenn would be pleased that the world still admires him, that the next Miller in line’s going strong.”***

John Miller passed away on the 11th June 2021.



"I have known young Pearce since he was a lad. In an amazingly short time he has reached a high professional standard. How high I hear you ask? High enough that I gladly pay for his services in the John Miller Orchestra..."

John Miller

ABOUT

DAVID PEARCE

Born and raised in Nottingham, David began playing the trombone at the age of 8. His inspiration to take up the instrument came after listening to the music of legendary bandleader, Glenn Miller and with the support of his nephew, John Miller. By the age of 16, David was already playing regularly for many local orchestras and big bands in his area.

In 2002 David began a four year undergraduate course at the Royal Northern College of Music, and during his first year he was awarded the prestigious **"Stan Barker Memorial Prize"** for jazz improvisation and playing in the RNCM Big Band. In the RNCM Big Band David had the privilege of working beside Jiggs Whigham, Don Lusher, Steve Waterman, John Warren, Anita Wardell, Andy Sheppard, Tina May, Matthew Herbert, Peter Wraight, Julien Joseph, Bob Mintzer and John Wilson, to name a few.

After graduating with a BMus (Hons) degree in 2006, David has enjoyed a varied career to date. He has played with many of the most notable big bands around the country, as well as leading his own big band that he formed in 2004. He has worked with various West End actors and singers including: Louis Hoover, Chris Mann, Allie Laurie, Nigel Casey, Mark Halliday and Alonzo Saunders with The Rat Pack Live from Las Vegas show, touring not only the UK but also Stuttgart and Hannover. He has also played trombone on several dates during the Back to Bacharach show tour. David appears on numerous big band recordings, and has recorded with comedy actor and musician, Graham Fellows (aka John Shuttleworth) in 2018.

David started playing tenor and bass trombone in the John Miller Orchestra in 2002, touring all over the UK and abroad. While playing with the orchestra, he has performed for many celebrities including: Jimmy Carr, Jools Holland, Michael Caine

and Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York.

On the 'orchestral side of life' David has played for the Hallé Orchestra, the London Pro- Arte and is regularly called upon to play for orchestras all around Europe.

Notable performances include playing bass sackbut for Forum Sinfonietta in the south of France in Mozart's "Requiem". His highlights also include playing in the Opéra Comique, the Salle Pleyel and the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, for numerous

performances of French orchestral repertoire, operas and operettas with Orchestre Ostinato as principal bass trombonist under the direction of highly acclaimed conductor, Jean-Luc Tingaud.

When John Miller passed away in 2021, David had been friends with John for over 30 years. David was bestowed the honour of becoming musical director of the John Miller Orchestra - an honour he holds in the highest regard.